

## FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The documents are being submitted within three (3) months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later. Since these documents are being filed within the time period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no fee or statement is required.

The Examiner's attention is directed to copending application number 10/777,167, naming Hideyuki Nishikawa et al. as inventors and filed on February 13, 2004, and the documents cited therein, a copy of which is enclosed.

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In accordance with MPEP § 609 III C(2) (August 2001, page 600-131), the Office is requested to return a copy of this Information Disclosure Statement with the Examiner's initials adjacent to this paragraph indicating that this copending